

URBAN DISTRICT OF DOWNHAM MARKET.

Sandfield House,
Downham Market,
24th May, 1938.

To the Chairman and Members of the Urban District Council of Downham Market.
Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have much pleasure in presenting you with my eighth Annual Report.

The Report will be an ordinary one and will only contain the necessary Statistics required by the Ministry of Health.

During the year, four non-parlour type houses were completed and occupied, and a Contract was entered into for the erection of eight houses of the three bedroom type and two houses of the four bedroom type. These will be completed and ready for occupation in the early part of this year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES GIBB,

Medical Officer of Health.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1937.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (Acres)	1003
Population, estimated, 1937	2529
Number of inhabited houses	798
Ratable Value	£12458
Sum represented by a penny rate	£47

PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA.

Downham Market is a small town situated in South West Norfolk and borders the Great Fen Level. The town is built on a slope towards the West. The higher parts are about 100 feet above the lower and there is therefore a good natural drainage. The town is lighted by electricity, and the streets and footpaths are in a good condition.

The subsoil consists of sand, sandstone and green rock sand in the upper parts, and clay in the lower.

The chief occupations of the inhabitants are those associated with a small agricultural town, there being no trades injurious to health.

Among the larger industries may be mentioned a flour mill, tin works, a small brewery, maltings, nurseries and an ice cream factory.

VITAL STATISTICS.

LIVE BIRTHS	Total	M	F	England & Wales
Live Births	30	16	14	
Legitimate	27	14	13	
Illegitimate	3	2	1	
Birth rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ...	11.86			14.9
STILL BIRTHS	1	—	1	
Rate per 1000 of estimated resident population ...	0.39			0.60
DEATHS	38	16	22	
Death rate per 1000 of the estimated resident population	15.03			12.4
Deaths from Puerperal Causes :-	Nil			
Puerperal Sepsis	Nil			
Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)...	Nil			0.97
Other Puerperal causes	Nil			
Rate per 1000 total (live and still births)...	Nil			2.26
Total	Nil			3.23
Death rate of Infants under one year of age	2	1	1	
All Infants per 1000 live births	66.66			58.00
Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births ...	33.33			
Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births ...	33.33			
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)...	4	2	2	
Rate per 1000 population	1.58			
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	1	1	—	
Rate per 1000 population	0.39			0.02
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	Nil			
Rate per 1000 population	Nil			0.04

Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	Nil	
Rate per 1000 population	...	...	Nil	5·8

No unusual or excessive mortality occurred during the year which has received or required comment.

General Provisions of Health Services for the Area.

Public Health Officers of the Local Authority :-

(a) Medical. There is a part time Medical Officer of Health who holds the following qualifications—
M.A., M.B., B.Ch.
A District Medical Officer under the Poor Law Acts who holds the following qualifications—M.A., M.B., B.Ch.

(b) Others. There is a part time Sanitary Inspector who hold the following qualifications—A.R.S.I.
M.S.I.A.

For the purpose of Meat Inspection the services of Mr. R. C. Baxter, M.R.C.V.S. are retained as and when required.

There has been no change in the services provided in the area under the following heads :-

(a) Laboratory Facilities.	(b) Nursing in the Home.
(c) Clinic and Treatment Centres.	(d) Hospitals. Public and Voluntary.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

There is a Red Cross Ambulance stationed in the area and it is available for a radius of 15 miles. This service is considered quite adequate for the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

WATER.

The major portion of the Town is served by water from Marham as supplied through the mains of the Wisbech Water Works Company. The houses not connected obtain their water from shallow wells. The supply has been satisfactory both in quantity and quality and it has not been necessary to take any action regarding any form of contamination.

The Wisbech Water Works Company have laid several new services in the area. No new wells have been sunk. One sample of well water was taken during the year and chemically examined by the Medical Officer. This was found to be satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There have been no alterations or additions of note to the sewerage system and all new houses erected during the year have been connected to the sewer. Five new drains have been laid.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The percentage of each type of Closet is as follows:-

(a) Water Closets	97%.	(b) Privy Vaults	1%.	(c) Privy Pails	2%.
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SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a) Number of premises inspected and revisited (exclusive of overcrowding survey)	...	95
(b) Number of notices served	...	33
(c) Number of notices complied with	...	27
(d) Overcrowding inspected and revisited	...	Nil
(e) Families vacating condemned houses	...	3
(f) Prosecutions	...	Nil
(g) Number of premises closed	...	3
(h) Animals removed	...	Nil

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

No complaints have been received during the year regarding smoke nuisance.

SHOPS.

Several inspections have been made during the year and slight defects have been dealt with informally and rectified.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools open to the public within the area of the Council.

SCHOOLS.

The sanitary conveniences and water supply at the Council Schools are in a satisfactory condition.

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

It was found necessary to take action under this heading during the year in one case only, this being other than a Council House. The method employed was fumigation by "Cimex."

HOUSING.

1. Inspection of Dwelling Houses during the year :-

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	37
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	53
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling houses (included under subhead (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	7
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	13
(3)	Number of dwelling houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	4
(4)	Number of dwelling houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	9

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :-

Number of defective dwelling houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	4
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3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year :-

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notice :-		
(a)	By Owners	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :-

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	...	Nil
(2)	Number of dwelling houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices :-		
(a)	By Owner	...	Nil
(b)	By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	Nil

(c) Proceeding under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1)	Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	3
(2)	Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	3

(d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :-

(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	Nil
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	Nil

4. Housing Act, 1936. Part IV. Overcrowding :-

(a) (I)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	6
(II)	Number of families dwelling therein...	...	6
(III)	Number of persons dwelling therein	...	37
(b)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	Nil
(c) (I)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year...	...	2
(II)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	...	14

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) Milk Supply. During the year 15 inspections of Dairies and Cowsheds have been made and 7 samples have been taken.

Licence holders in the area.

Registered producers 5 Accredited producers 1 Accredited retailers 1

(b) Meat and other Foods. All the slaughterhouses and bakehouses in the district have been inspected at regular intervals during the year and the number of inspections made was 23.

Carcases inspected and condemned :-										Numbers
Number killed (if known)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	—
Number inspected...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1040
All diseases except Tuberculosis :-										
Whole carcases condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	15 Sheep Livers
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1.4
Tuberculosis only :-										
Whole carcases condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	2 Cows Lungs
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	0.19

(c) Adulteration. It has not been necessary to take any action under this heading.

(d) Chemical and Bacteriological examination of Food. The Laboratories for this purpose are situated at Norwich. It has not been necessary to send any samples for examination.

Prevalence of, and Control over, Infectious and other Diseases.

There was only one case of Scarlet Fever notified during the year.

Facilities are still available at the Wisbech Isolation Hospital for cases from this district.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year, 1937.

Diseases.	Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths
SCARLET FEVER	1	Nil	Nil
PUERPERAL PYREXIA	3	Nil	Nil
PNEUMONIA	2	Nil	2
ERYSIPELAS	1	Nil	Nil
TOTALS	7	Nil	2

ANALYSIS OF THE FOREGOING TABLE.

Ages	Scarlet Fever	Puerperal Pyrexia	Pneumonia	Erysipelas
20-35	1	3	1	—
45-65	—	—	1	—
65 & over	—	—	—	1
Totals	1	3	2	1

TUBERCULOSIS.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1937.

Age Periods	NEW CASES				DEATHS			
	Respiratory		Non-respiratory		Respiratory		Non-respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
5-15	1	...	...	...	...
15-25	1	...	...	...	1
25-35	...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...
Totals	...	1	...	2	...	...	...	1